institutions in Gujarat and other parts of the country. While answering these questions, the Home Secretary gave details of the action taken by the Central and State Governments to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

(c) A Central Team was deputed to Gujarat to interact with senior State Government functionaries in connection with the situation arising out of the reported attacks on Christians and their institutions and to ascertain the steps taken by the State authorities to control the situation. The Central Team recommended several confidence building measures to defuse the situation and to ensure communal harmony. Based on the report of the Central Team, appropriate instructions were issued.

Threat by Ranvir Sena

1574. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the so-called Ranvir Sena of Bihar, while brazenly taking responsibility of the recent Bihar massacres, in February, 1999, had again threatened to carry out further massacres; and

(b) if so, the steps since taken to apprehans the culprits and the success achieved in these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Some reports in this regard have come to notice.

(b) 18 activities of the Ranvir Sena have been arrested since 13.2.1999.

Funds for Border Road Development

1575. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government provide funds under Border Road Developpment to Assam Government for construction of roads;

(b) if so, whether the Centre monitor funds utilisation allotted to States since Assam Government diverted the funds to other projects coming under State programmes;

(c) how much money was allotted during the last two years to Assam Government under the programme; and

(d) how much money was spent on roads, particularly in sothern part of Assam known as Barak Valley having international border with Bangladesh, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Technical Committee under the Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department and a High Level Empowered Committee under the Chairmanship of Union Home Secretary regularly monitor the progress of works and utilisation of funds under the Indo-Bangladesh Border Works Project.

(c) Rs. 1,200 lakhs and Rs. 760 lakhs were released to Government of Assam for construction of border roads and fence in 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(d) An amount of Rs. 6997 lakhs released upto 31.3.1998 has been spent on construction of order roads (including bridges) in Dhubri, Karimganj and Cachar districts of Assam.

ISI activities in India

1576. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of ISI activities in India like its link with Madarsas in border areas (Hindustan Times, 16.5.1998); smuggling of counterfiet 500 Rupees notes (Business Standard, 25.5.1998); its infiltration in Armed Forces (Pioneer, 7.12.1998); its role in Mumbai Serial Blasts (Times of India, 4.9.1997); its role in Mumbai Serial Blasts (Times of India, 4.9. 1997); its activities in West Bengal (Observer, 10.12.1998) and Hyderbad (Indian Express, 10.7.1998); and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken in all these matters?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that ISI of Pakistan is involved in aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country. Available information indicates that this agency has been supporting and financing

terrorism including its efforts to target and train misguided youths for engineering violence. Government is keeping a close and continuous watch on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed.

Government have taken various steps which include sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and co-ordinated actions by concerned Central/ State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, supply of equipments for effective observations during day and night, increase in number of nakas (check posts) as well as sensitising and alerting the State Governments regarding movements of Pak ISI agents, anti-national elements and insurgents.

Police and intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice.

Demographic change in Siliguri

1577. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Time of India dated 15th February, 1999 under the caption "Significant demographic changes in Siliguri alarm Government agencies"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps proposed to be taken to deal with the problems mentioned therein, both at political and administrative level?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both the State Government of West Bengal and the Central Government are conscious of the developments in northern areas of West Bengal. Besides taking steps to curb the problem of infiltration from Bangladesh, the security situation in the region has also been reviewed. Intelligence agencies have been alerted. Coordination mechanism with neighbouring States have been set up so that negative elements cannot escape from one State to another. Regular review of the situation is being done and the situtation is closely monitored.

Foreign funds for VHP

1578. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the interview given by the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) to the Eendu Television wherein he observed that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad may be getting more foreign funds than the Christians;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether such unilateral expression of opinion on highly sensitive matters is in public interest; and

(d) whether Government would direct the Chairman of NCM to clarify the sources on which his remark was based; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Chairman, National Commission for Minorities has denied having made any such statement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of new Force

1579. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "New Force Soon", apppearing in the Hindustan Times dated 28th December, 1998;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether such a Force would be deployed in each State according to their length, width and population; if so, the number of personnel to be recruited; and

(d) what is the annual expenditure anticipated, the share of the Centre and by when it would come into existence?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The on going scheme of India Reserve Battalions was mentioned which was